

REMARKS

The comments of the Examiner in his rejection of claims 1-2, and 5-7 under 35 §102(b) based on Morris, U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,723, of claim 8 under 35 §103(a) based on Morris, U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,723, and of claims 9-15 under 35 §103(a) based on Morris, U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,723, and Ruey-Jang, U.S. Pat. No. 5,037,541, have been given  
5 consideration by the Applicant and, in view of those comments, Applicant submits the foregoing amendments as placing the claims in condition for allowance and requests favorable consideration of the amended claims, claims 16-20 having been withdrawn from present consideration due to a restriction requirement. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to by the Examiner, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.  
10 Furthermore, no comment was made with respect to the drawings submitted with the application, so Applicant requests that the Examiner indicate their status.

In the opinion of the Examiner, Fig. 2 and column 3, line 2 provide the basis for the Section 102(b) rejection. With respect to the Section 103(a) rejection based only on Morris, the Examiner submits that the use of a second handle in Morris would have been  
15 obvious. With respect to the rejection of claims 9-15, the Examiner states that these claims specify a coalescing chamber, and the Ruey-Jang discloses a frame basket 3 for holding media and that it would have been obvious to employ the sacks of Morris in the chamber of Ruey-Jang in order to provide easy access to the sacks.

Turning to the rejection of the claims, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations previously found in objected to claim 3. Consequently claim 3 has been cancelled and claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1 as amended. Therefore Applicant submits that claims 1-2, and 4-8 are allowable.

5           With respect to claims 9-15, claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 11, which claim has been canceled. In reviewing the Morris and Ruey-Jang references, neither disclose nor suggest the inclusion of vertical anchoring rods as is claimed by Applicant. Thus, Applicant submits the claimed structure is neither anticipated nor obvious based on such references. With respect to claim 10, Applicant  
10       submits that neither reference discloses nor suggests that the sidewalls be fabricated from a steel mesh screening. With respect to claim 12, Applicant notes that the limitations found in this claim are the same as those found in objected to original claim 3, and calls the attention of the Examiner to this fact. With respect to claim 15, it recites the limitation of including a plurality of coalescer media flexible containers retained in  
15       horizontal layers within the coalescer chamber. Applicant submits that Morris and Ruey-Jang each disclose only one flexible container, and there is no suggestion in either reference to modify their disclosures to incorporate a plurality of flexible containers. Instead, if anything, the two references teach that the dimensions of the single flexible container disclosed in each reference could be varied, but not that the number of flexible  
20       containers could be increased. Also, in addition to not disclosing a plurality of flexible

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containers, there is no suggestion to arrange these containers so as to form horizontal layers.

In view of the amendments of the claims, and the foregoing remarks, claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-15 are submitted for further consideration as being patentable. The allowance of these claims is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions which would expedite issuance of a Notice of Allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3393 for any insufficient fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 5, 2006